Many are the cauſes that, in the preſent corrupt ſtate of ſociety, contribute to enſlave women by cramping their underſtandings and ſharpening their ſenſes. One, perhaps, that ſilently does more miſchief than all the reſt, is their diſregard of order.

To do every thing in an orderly manner, is a moſt important precept, which women, who, generally ſpeaking, receive only a diſorderly kind of education, ſeldom attend to with that degree of exactneſs that men, who from their infancy are broken into method, obſerve. This negligent kind of gueſs-work, for what other epithet can be uſed to point out the random exertions of a ſort of inſtinctive common ſenſe, never brought to the teſt of reaſon? prevents their generalizing matters of fact—ſo they do to-day, what they did yeſterday, merely becauſe they did it yeſterday.

This contempt of the underſtanding in early life has more baneful conſequences than is commonly ſuppoſed; for the little knowledge which women of ſtrong minds attain, is, from various circumſtances, of a more deſultory kind than the knowledge of men, and it is acquired more by ſheer obſervations on real life,

life, than from comparing what has been individually obſerved with the reſults of experience generalized by ſpeculation. Led by their dependent ſituation and domeſtic employments more into ſociety, what they learn is rather by ſnatches; and as learning is with them, in general, only a ſecondary thing, they do not purſue any one branch with that perſevering ardour neceſſary to give vigour to the faculties, and clearneſs to the judgment. In the preſent ſtate of ſociety, a little learning is required to ſupport the character of a gentleman; and boys are obliged to ſubmit to a few years of diſcipline. But in the education of women, the cultivation of the underſtanding is always ſubordinate to the acquirement of ſome corporeal accompliſhment; even while enervated by confinement and falſe notions of modeſty, the body is prevented from attaining that grace and beauty which relaxed half-formed limbs never exhibit. Beſides, in youth their faculties are not brought forward by emulation; and having no ſerious ſcientific ſtudy, if they have natural ſagacity it is turned too ſoon on life and manners. They dwell on effects, and modifications, without tracing them back to cauſes; and complicated